

CLAIMS:

1. A method for controlling a plurality of devices connected to a host system, comprising:

receiving, by an input/output processor (IOP) on a network server system, a device request from a network server operating system;

determining to which one of the plurality of devices is the device request directed;

creating a host system request for the one of the plurality of devices; and

sending the host system request to an IOP of the host system.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the IOP on the network server system includes a device driver for receiving the device request and determining to which one of the plurality of devices is the device request directed.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the device request is a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) request directed to a storage device connected to a SCSI bus of host system.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the host system request is a direct memory access (DMA) request.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of devices include one or more storage devices selected from the group consisting of a direct access storage device (DASD), an optical drive, and a tape drive.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the device driver is configured to create host system requests for each type of storage devices connected to the host system.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

executing the host system request on the one or more storage devices.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the device request is directed to a virtual storage space defined on one or more storage devices.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

executing the host system request on a virtual storage space defined on the one or more storage devices.

10. A medium containing program code that, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for controlling a plurality of devices connected to a host system comprising:

receiving, by an input/output processor (IOP) on the computer, a device request from a computer operating system;

determining to which one of the plurality of devices connected to the host system is the device request directed;

creating a host system request for one of the plurality of devices; and

sending the host system request to an IOP of the host system.

11. The medium of claim 10 wherein the IOP on the computer operating system includes a device driver for receiving the device request and determining to which one

of the plurality of devices is the device request directed.

12. The medium of claim 10 wherein the device request is a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) request directed to a storage device connected to a SCSI bus of host system.

13. The medium of claim 10 wherein the host system request is a direct memory access (DMA) request.

14. The medium of claim 10 wherein the plurality of devices include one or more storage devices selected from the group consisting of a direct access storage device (DASD), an optical drive, and a tape drive.

15. The medium of claim 14 wherein the device driver is configured to create host system requests for each type of storage devices connected to the host system.

16. The medium of claim 14 wherein the method further comprises:

executing the host system request on the one or more storage devices.

17. The medium of claim 14 wherein the device request is directed to a virtual storage space defined on the one or more storage devices.

18. The medium of claim 17 wherein the method further comprises:

executing the host system request on a virtual storage space defined on the one or more storage devices.

19. A method for controlling a plurality of Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) storage devices connected to a host server system, comprising:

sending a SCSI request from a network server operating system to an input/output processor (IOP) on the network server system, wherein the IOP on the network server system includes a device driver for receiving the SCSI request;

determining, utilizing the device driver, to which one of the plurality of SCSI storage devices is the SCSI request is directed;

creating a host server system request for one of the plurality of SCSI storage devices; and

sending the host server system request to an IOP of the host server system.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the plurality of SCSI storage devices selected from the group consisting of a direct access storage device (DASD), an optical drive, and a tape drive.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the device driver is configured to create host system requests for each type of SCSI storage devices connected to the host system.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the host system request is a direct memory access (DMA) request.

23. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

executing the host system request on the one of the plurality of storage devices.

24. The method of claim 19 wherein the SCSI request is directed to a virtual storage space defined on one of the plurality of SCSI storage devices.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising:

executing the host system request on the virtual storage space defined on one of the plurality of storage devices.